B. T. 1. 489 MS

A BRIEF

NARRATIVE,

OR THE

REMONSTRANCE

OF

JOHN KERSEY,

Sometimes Chief Clerk of the *Trinity-House* of *Deptford-Strond* in the County of *Kent*, with his juſt Right to the ſaid Office truly repreſented.

ALSO,

The Cauſe of his Diſmiſſion in the Year 1648, by the Uſurped Power then Governing.

WITH HIS

Several Addreſſes to the Corporation, ſince His Majeſties Happy Reſtauration, but no Re-admiſſion.

LONDON, Printed in the Year 1677.

BIBLIOTHECA·BODLEIANA

A Brief Narrative of the CASE *of* John Kerſey *ſometimes Chief Clerk of the* Trinity-Houſe *of* Deptford-Srond *in the County of* Kent, *&c.*

Inprimis, He the ſaid *John Kerſey* was received in the Year 1636, by M^r *Joſias Beſt*, then Clerk of the *Trinity-Houſe* aforeſaid, as his Servant, or Under-Clerk, and continued in that condition about 5 years.

At the expiration of which Term, *Joſias Beſt* voluntarily ſurrenders his place to the Corporation, recommending *John Kerſey* to their Service to ſucceed him.

The *Trinity-Houſe*, in conſideration of *John Kerſey*'s good Service, Demeanor, and Ability, elect and chuſe him their Clerk, without putting any one in competition with him, and ſo to continue ſo long as he ſhall behave himſelf as becometh an honeſt man; which is generally underſtood to be during Life.

John Kerſey continueth eight years longer as chief Clerk of the *Trinity-Houſe* with general approbation, till in the year 1648, for promoting the Perſonal Treaty with His Late Majeſty of Bleſſed Memory,

for that very cauſe was outed of the ſaid Employment, and the whole Corporation for Eleven years odd Months diſſolved by the Uſurped Tyrannical Power then Governing.

John Kerſey makes his Addreſs by Petition the 27th of *October* 1660, to the *Trinity-Houſe*, to be re-admitted, finds but ¼ part of the Elder Brethren ſurviving, which were left in 1648; but the Corporation new modell'd, conſiſting of 31 perſons, according to its priſtine condition.

He receives this general Anſwer, That they could not do the Clerk they found there, ſo much wrong to eject him, as to do *John Kerſey* the right to receive him; and particularly the Corporation had power to chuſe their own Clerk: a Clerk they had choſen, and him they would ſtand by.

The Petition before-mentioned was attended by

Dr *Fuller* Biſhop of *Kerry*.
Col. *John Price* of *Hereford*, Eſq;.
John Needler of *Grayes-Inn*, Gent.
Tho. Hulbert of *Covent-Garden*, Gent.
Lancelot Burrell of *Lond.* Gent.
Humphrey Bean of *Lond.* Merchant.
William Clifton of *Covent-Garden*, Vintner.
Sr *Chriſtopher Guiſe* of *Glouceſter*, Kt & Baront.
Robert Gardiner of *London*, Merchant.

Which Gentlemen, with ſome others, I entreated that

that day to go along with me, and humbly beſought the Corporation to admit to them the hearing of ſuch things as might be ſaid and offered by me to the Corporation; and alſo to teſtifie of my Life and Converſation for the Twelve years laſt paſt, and particularly what, and how I had acted for the Kings Friends in order to His Service; all which was abſolutely denied me: the want of which Teſtimony hath, and doth ſtill hinder the publication of my Vindication.

After the denial of granting the Petition before mentioned, *John Kerſey* publiſhed to ſome Friends and Members of the Corporation, a Remonſtrance containing the Heads of the aforeſaid Petition, in theſe words:

A Brief Remonſtrance of JOHN KERSEY, *late Clerk of the* Trinity-Houſe.

The Remonſtrant ſheweth,

THat after the expiration of about five years Service as an Under-Clerk to his Predeceſſor *Joſias Beſt*, the Remonſtrant was by the general liking and approbation of the whole Corporation (the ſaid *Joſias Beſt*, for cauſes and conſiderations him thereunto moving, voluntarily reſigning his ſaid Office) elected in his room, and continued principal Clerk therein for the ſpace of Eight Years more, and by an Order of the ſaid Corporation, Dated the

the 22th of *May*, 1641. Subſcribed by all the Corporation then preſent, enabled ſo to continue ſo long as he ſhould behave himſelf as ſhould become an honeſt man, which is generally underſtood during Life.

That the Remonſtrant promoting the Perſonal Treaty with the Late King of Bleſſed Memory, by all endeavors and intereſts, which were not ſmall, by reaſon of the great influence he had among Seamen of the beſt quality, and the particular knowledge he had how moſt of them ſtood affected as to Loyalty and Allegiance; the ſaid Treaty not happily ſucceeding, the Petitioner was forced out of his ſaid Employment in 1648, by the Uſurped Tyrannical Power then governing, and alſo the whole Corporation for Eleven Years odd Months diſſolved.

The Remonſtrant, when the Perſonal Treaty was on foot, got an appearance at ſeveral times in the ſpace of ten days, of 468 Maſters and Commanders of Ships, of the moſt eminent belonging to the Port of *London*, who chearfully ſubſcribed to the Petition for a *Perſonal Treaty*; he alſo took up divers Letters from unknown perſons, directed to the *Trinity-Houſe*, and delivered them to the Corporation in full Court, when no perſon elſe would adventure to do it; the Scope and Tenor of which, was to incite and ſpur the Corporation to be active in that juncture of time, and to follow the example of divers Corporations, who had already appeared by Petition in this weighty Affair: which was accordingly done, though the deplo-

deplored ſucceſs anſwered not the Prayers and Hopes of His Majeſties True and Loyal Subjects.

The Remonſtrant by his own Intereſt with the Searchers at *Graveſend*, got paſſage for the Biſhop of *Kerry*, and Col. *John Price*, with divers other proſcribed Gentlemen that were active for His Majeſty and His Affairs, who in ſafety arrived at divers Ports beyond the Seas, though to the hazard of the Remonſtrant's Life and Office.

That upon the re-aſſumption of the Secluded Members of Parliament, the ſurviving Wardens and Elder Brethren of the *Trinity-Houſe* re-aſſumed their places alſo, which were but Eight of Thirty & one, and Petitioned the Parliament, that they might new Model their Corporation; which was granted, and an Act paſſed to impower them ſo to do.

The Remonſtrant, according to his Duty, petitioned the *Trinity-Houſe* the 27th of *October*, 1661; but being denied to have any Friend accompany him at the Hearing, which in reaſon ought to have been free, they only put him to the proof of one particular mentioned in the foregoing Petition, *viz.* So long to continue as he ſhould behave himſelf as ſhould become an honeſt man.

The Remonſtrant did it by a Copy of the Original, which by fortune he had preſerved; but their Faith was as in many other matters, of no ſuch long extent as to believe it, unleſs I could prove it out of their own Record. This put me hard to't; for my Succeſſor *Edward Keeling*, accompting himſelf as one

of

of the then Elder Brethren, and ſitting among them (by what power I know not) after ſome Hums and ſcrewed countenances, as if he had expected a Revelation, the modern way being not quite out of faſhion, affirmed, he had taken more pains than any man in viewing and ſearching the Records of the *Trinity-Houſe*, but could never find any to that purpoſe. Here was my Definitive Sentence, and all my hopes vaniſht; for I eaſily perceived that particular intereſt ſwayed more for the preſent Clerk than for me. But Providence gave me yet a thread to hold by; Capt. *Brian Harriſon*, one of the former Elder Brethren, ſitting then as Warden, or Deputy-Warden, affirmed in my favour, that ſuch words he well remembred was in the Order whereby I was made Clerk, and wiſhed me to recollect what manner of Book it was in, and he would be at the trouble to ſeek it out, and did ſo; I turned readily to it, but with much fear it had been expunged by thoſe that durſt do any thing; but they had miſt it, and ſo had *Edward Keeling*; for I found it and read it, which, in my thoughts, made much for me. The Corporation would not inſiſt much upon Argument, deſired me to withdraw, and upon return, received this Anſwer as before mentioned, from ſome of them, That they found a Clerk at their new Modelling, and conceive they cannot do him that wrong, as to eject him, and me that right as to receive me; and from the Chair-man, in the name and behalf of thoſe preſent, That they did conceive they had power to chuſe their own Clerk; a

Clerk

Clerk they had choſen, and him they would ſtand by.

The caſe is therefore clear, that *John Kerſey* was outed for promoting the Perſonal Treaty, and for no other cauſe, as by two Certificates, one under the hands of a great number of the beſt Maſters of Ships belonging to this Port of *London*, and another under the hands of divers of the moſt eminent Merchants, and other perſons dwelling and reſiding about this City, may appear; the Copies whereof ſhall hereafter be ſet forth.

That the promoting the Perſonal Treaty, was a Service to the King, and to all Loyal Subjects, though it did not happily ſucceed, and no crime or miſdemeanor, therefore cannot continue outed unleſs they will own the Power legal that ejected him.

That the if Will of ſome few of the Corporation, which ſways the reſt, joyned with a particular Intereſt, which may be made out, muſt be a Law:

It is humbly offered to the whole Corporation, that if it may not be thought fit that the Remonſtrant be continued for the future to officiate in the ſaid Office of Clerk of the *Trinity-Houſe*, with all its uſual and former Perquiſites and Fees heretofore belonging, or in any wiſe appertaining to the ſame:

That then ſome other experienced and able perſon of known Loyalty and Fidelity proper for that employment, may ſucceed in that place hereafter, that ſo thoſe that are, and have been True and Loyal to His Majeſty in his greateſt Exigences, may receive and

communicate of thoſe happy Benefits which others, not having the leaſt merited the ſame, do now moſt comfortably enjoy: And to the intent that all memory of that horrid Uſurper and Tyrant *O. Cromwel* may be expunged and obliterated, the Remonſtrant further implores,

That the Branches and Remains of him may be expelled, to make room for ſuch a perſon who may wave all private Intereſt for the Service of His Majeſty, and Advance of the Publick, as the Remonſtrant hath been accuſtomed to do, and for which he hath this Twelve years continued a patient, though extream Sufferer.

The aforeſaid Remonſtrance coming to view (as no queſtion but it did) of ſome of the Grandees of *Trinity-Houſe*, was no whit pleaſant, inſomuch as it is more than probable they might be quit with me at the next turn. It fortuned that *Ralph Keeling* died in *Auguſt* following; having timely notice thereof, I made a ſecond Addreſs by Petition again, verily believing no Obſtacle; but found ſuch ſucceſs as before. The Copy of that Petition likewiſe followeth.

To the Right Worſhipful the Maſter, Wardens, and Aſſiſtants, &c.

The Petition of *John Kerſey*,

Sheweth,

THat in *October* laſt the Petitioner made his Addreſs by Petition to this Eminent Corporation, ſetting forth the time of his Admiſſion, his Continuance, and his *Exit*, and the grounds and cauſes of either of them.

That there was one clauſe in the ſaid Petition, *viz.* (ſo to continue ſo long as he behaved himſelf as ſhould become an honeſt man, which was incluſive in the Order when your Petitioner was conſtituted Clerk, and Signed by the whole Corporation then preſent) was in hard meaſure to your Petitioner put to proof, and no acknowledgment of any ſuch Record by the late Clerk, the Petitioners pretended Succeſſor; but upon ſtrict ſearch of the Regiſter, was found to be recorded in the ſame Terms as the Petitioner ſet forth.

That the Petitioner loſt the ſaid Employment, not for any Miſdemeanor or inſufficiency, but for promoting the Perſonal Treaty with the Late King *Charles* of Bleſſed Memory, the unfortunate ſucceſs whereof, involved not only the Petitioner, but this whole Corporation in a general Diſſolution for Twelve Years.

That your Petitioner had more than hopes of reaſſuming his ſaid Office at the Reſtauration of His Sacred Majeſty, knowing ſo many of the Elder Bre-

thren as were then alive, without any let or diſturbance reaſſume theirs: But when your Petitioner, as in duty bound, applied himſelf by Petition, found this Anſwer from ſome of the Corporation, That they could not do a man whom they found in the Employment, ſo much wrong to eject him, and right as to receive the Petitioner: and upon further reſult of the Corporation, your Petitioner received a more harſh Anſwer, which he hath had ſad cauſe to remember.

Notwithſtanding your Petitioner hopes that upon this ſecond Review of the Petitioners long ſuffering, his preſent neceſſities, and the loſs of reputation, if not re-admitted, this juncture of time alſo occurring whereby no room is left for pretences of injury for, or to auy other perſon;

He prays, That putting in caution for his fair Demeanor and Fidelity, he may receive the influence of your Worſhips Favour, by his re-admiſſion, or ſome moderate and conſcionable Satisfaction for his loſs of the prime of his time ſpent in your Worſhips Service, and Diſburſement of a conſiderable Sum of Money (though in his own wrong) to his Predeceſſor, at the time of his Conſtitution.

And your Petitioner ſhall pray, &c.

This Second Petition was accompanied with the ſame perſons in the Month of *Auguſt* following, and

I was received with very fair words and ſeeming reſpect; but all were *Chimera's*; my Friends denied as before, to hear any thing I might offer them.

The Court being ſate, I was call'd in among Four others (Suitors for the place) we were all anſwered according to cuſtom, That the Corporation would take our deſires into conſiderrtion; that the Deſign was laid, the Knight muſt always beat the Giant; *William Witherington*, who had been a Sub-Clerk there for ſome years, was choſen to counter-ballance the Petitioner, which elſe had carried it from the reſt; but the Squib is not yet at the end of the Rope. *Witherington* after a formal poſſeſſion of the place ſome few days, falls ſick, and although there were fair hopes of Death, recovers; yet however the Deſign for Mr *Askew* muſt hold, who (to ſay truth) was better qualified in other Myſteries than in Clerkſhip. Here the Remonſtrant pleads ignorance by what Device they pull'd in *Askew* by head and ſhoulders, and laid aſide *Witherington*, who is but a Sub-Clerk to this day.

The

The Copies of Two Certificates, one of Commanders of Ships belonging to this Port of London; *the other of Merchants, and others of eminent Quality, in the behalf of the* Remonſtrant, *ſignifying his good Carriage, Behaviour and Converſation.*

WE whoſe Names are here-under written, being Maſters and Owners of Shipping, and related to Marine Affairs, having had long knowledge and experience of the Bearer hereof, *John Kerſey*, formerly Clerk of the *Guild-Fraternity* or Brotherhood of the *Trinity-Houſe* of *Deptford-Strond* in the County of *Kent*, do hereby Certifie and Inform, that the ſaid *John Kerſey* being duly, lawfully and generally elected and choſen Clerk of the ſaid Fraternity, did exerciſe the ſaid Office for many years, to the general liking and approbation of the ſaid Corporation, and of all ſuch other perſons as had occaſion to make uſe of him in his ſaid Office and Employment, being a well ordered perſon, courteous and affable in his Converſation, of good ability in the performance of the Employment aforeſaid; and withal, both ready and willing to give every man Diſpatches according to their ſeveral and earneſt occaſions. And that for ſo much as we know, or have ever heard, there was no diſlike againſt him by any of the ſaid Corporation: And this we are very certain and confident to affirm, that

that he was never ejected or diſmiſſed by the ſaid Corporation for any cauſe of diſability, diſlike or misbehaviour; but only upon the ſame cauſe and reaſon the whole Corporation aforeſaid was diſſolved; that is to ſay, for abetting, aiding, aſſiſting and promoting the Perſonal Treaty with His Late Majeſty of Bleſſed Memory. In proſecution whereof, he (according to his continued Loyalty) was to the utmoſt of his power and intereſt, both active, earneſt and vigorous.

July 29, 1660. *Subſcribed by* 40 *Commanders, as aforeſaid; and Another of the ſame tenor, Subſcribed by* 50 *Merchants and other perſons of eminent quality.*

When Mr *Peapes* entred, I knew not till above a Twelvemonth after; which ſaved me the labour of a Third Addreſs, and ſo there was nothing heard of me: Since Mr *Peapes* his Death, I made another Addreſs, but had an ambiguous anſwer from Two Members of the Corporation: One affirmed the Buſineſs was done already; that is, there was a new Election; and the other told me, there would be no Election till fourteen days were paſt; yet upon *Monday* following, being an unuſual day for Meeting, there was a Court called, and Mr *Gibſon* choſen; which prevented my Fourth Addreſs.

The Sight of this Paper to Ingenuous unbyaſſed perſons of the Corporation aforeſaid, that knew me not, Time having worn me out of remembrance, may perhaps give them a ſight of my Sufferings, and ſo conſequently may beget both Pity and Charity. I ſhall make further application to them as Time and Opportunity will direct, not intending willingly to quit my Right in the ſaid Office till the expiration of my Breath.

JOHN KERSEY.